

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2663
PATENT

Application # 09/473,953
Attorney Docket # 113523 (1014-086)

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully thanked for the thoughtful consideration provided to this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner is also thanked for determining that claims 14, 15, 18, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consistent the Examiner's determination and with 35 U.S.C. 112, 4th paragraph, each of claims 14, 15, 18, and 19 has been amended from dependent to independent form and includes all of the limitations of the former independent claim and any intervening claims to which it referred and thereby incorporated by reference. Thus, for each of claims 14, 15, 18, and 19, the current amendment of that claim does not narrow its scope in the least because the currently amended claim is identical in scope to its form prior to the current amendment.

Claims 1-13, 16, 17, and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 14, 15, 18, and 19 are now pending in this application. Claims 14, 15, 18, and 19 are independent claims.

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CONCLUSION


It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application as amended is in clear condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2504. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Haynes PLC

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